(a) whether the Government is aware that patients are getting attracted by grand advertisements of costly medicines for serious diseases like T.B., diabetes, asthma, arthritis, blood pressure, cancer etc. appearing in newspapers, journals and on television channels;

(b) whether all such medicines being advertised are approved and licensed by Government and are fully safe for the health of patients;

(c) if so, the criterion for selling these medicine after their approval as well as granting license for their production; and

(d) the authority responsible for fixing indiscriminate prices of these medicines together with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The office of Drugs Controller General (India) has informed that it has not received any such report that patients are getting attracted by grand advertisements of costly medicines for serious diseases like T.B., diabetes, asthma, arthritis, blood pressure, cancer, etc. Further, advertisement of drugs for the cure of certain disease like T.B., diabetes, asthma, blood pressure, cancer etc. is prohibited under Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954 administered by the State Government.

(b) Under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act medicines are permitted to be manufactured only under a license granted by State Licensing Authorities appointed by State Government after ensuring their safety, efficacy and quality.

(c) The Drug formulations are sold by the registered chemists under a license and in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules made there under.

(d) Prices of the drugs are regulated by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority under the control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Supply of medicine by untrained persons

†1595. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that in many chemist shops, medicines are being sold by untrained persons instead of qualified and trained persons i.e. pharmacists and on several occasions this has resulted in tragic incidents with patients because of wrong medicines supplied to them; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have come to the notice of Government and the action taken by Government in this regard and the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 the Licensing Authorities appointed by the State

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Governments grant and renew licenses of Chemist shops for sale of medicines and ensure that the medicines are supplied/sold by or under the supervision of registered Pharmacist. The complaints in respect of sale of medicines by chemist shop are handled by Drugs Licensing Authorities appointed by the State Governments. The Drug Controller General (India) has informed that in the recent past, the State Drug Licensing Authorities have not referred any case of tragic incidents with patients because of wrong medicines being sold by chemist shops to his office.

National scheme for maternity entitlements

1596. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Scheme for maternity entitlements in the informal sector is being introduced; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No Madam, there is no such scheme being introduced as National Scheme for Maternity Entitlement by this Ministry.

However, as per information received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MOWCD) they are in the process of formulating Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme with the objective to improve the health and nutrition status of the pregnant and lactating women, to improve IMR and the birth weight of the child and to follow Infant Young Child Feeding Practices (IYCF).

Promotional avenues of pharmacists

†1597. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Pharmacist in some States comes under gazetted rank, and has better prospects of promotion etc.;

(b) whether with better prospects of promotional avenues, the employees/officers of Central Government with lesser qualifications move ahead, while Pharmacists of CGHS with higher qualification and experience remain stuck to the same post for years together;

(c) if so, whether Government will remove this anomaly with regard to pharmacists of CGHS by getting information from the concerned State Governments; and

(d) if so, the time by when the anomaly will be removed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not maintain data of Pharmacists posted in states as health is a

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